

**State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



COMMISSION ON CHILDREN

**You Are Invited to Join Us for
Not a Hurricane, but Still a Disaster:
A Discussion of Connecticut's Uprooted and Displaced Children**

**Tuesday, November 15, 2005
10 a.m. to noon
Room 2-A, Legislative Office Building**

Experts will discuss the plight of displaced and uprooted children at the next regular meeting of the Commission on Children. The outpouring of support from state residents for the victims of Hurricane Katrina has shone a light on Connecticut children who, while not victims of natural disasters, have been uprooted nevertheless—and need just as much assistance. Because homelessness so often stems from poverty or domestic violence, those topics will be addressed as well.

How serious are these problems? Consider that:

- Over a 12-month period, 13,000 children will experience homelessness in Connecticut.
- At any given moment, more than 2,500 children are staying in state-funded shelters.
- In 2004, despite Connecticut's great wealth, every tenth child belonged to a family living below the federal poverty level.
- Homeless children are more likely than others to perform poorly in school and suffer psychological problems as adults.

Those invited to join the panel of experts includes: Mary McAtee, CT Coalition to End Homelessness; Kameo Parks, youth coordinator for CT Voices for Children; Jay Salvatore of the Charter Oak Chapter of the American Red Cross; and Representatives Marie Kirkley-Bey and Toni Walker.

Those invited to join a panel on policy options include: Commissioner Patricia Wilson-Coker, DSS; Commissioner Valerie Lewis, Higher Education; Associate Commissioner of Education George Coleman; and Representatives Felipe Reinoso and Anne Ruwet.

House Majority Leader Christopher Donovan will thank the Toy Industry Foundation for generously donating toys that have been distributed to children displaced by Hurricane Katrina and to Connecticut children uprooted by violence, poverty and homelessness.

For updated event information, look at the COC website www.cga.ct.gov/coc/